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Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Martin **Ngundze** (South Africa)

I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament" was included in the provisional agenda of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 69/27 of 2 December 2014.

2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 15 September 2017, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 28 September 2017, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 52 (b) and 90 to 106. At its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 2 to 6 and on 9 and 10 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items. At its 9th meeting, on 10 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on the follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions and the presentation of reports. At its 10th meeting, on 11 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament. The Committee also held 14 meetings (10th to 23rd), from 11 to 13, from 16 to 18, on 20 and from 23 to 26 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and

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considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 24th to 28th meetings, on 27, 30 and 31 October and on 1 and 2 November.[1]

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Conference on Disarmament (A/72/27).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.9

5. On 9 October, the representative of Belarus, on behalf of Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Nicaragua, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) submitted a draft resolution entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament" (A/C.1/72/L.9). Subsequently, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Maldives, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 27th meeting, on 1 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.9 by a recorded vote of 173 to 3 (see para. 7). The voting was as follows:[2]

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab

[1] For an account of the Committee's discussion of the item, see A/C.1/72/PV.2, A/C.1/72/PV.3, A/C.1/72/PV.4, A/C.1/72/PV.5, A/C.1/72/PV.6, A/C.1/72/PV.7, A/C.1/72/PV.8, A/C.1/72/PV.9, A/C.1/72/PV.10, A/C.1/72/PV.11, A/C.1/72/PV.12, A/C.1/72/PV.13, A/C.1/72/PV.14, A/C.1/72/PV.15, A/C.1/72/PV.16, A/C.1/72/PV.17, A/C.1/72/PV.18, A/C.1/72/PV.19, A/C.1/72/PV.20, A/C.1/72/PV.21, A/C.1/72/PV.22, A/C.1/72/PV.23, A/C.1/72/PV.24, A/C.1/72/PV.25, A/C.1/72/PV.26, A/C.1/72/PV.27 and A/C.1/72/PV.28.

[2] Subsequently, the delegations of Benin and Namibia informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour.

Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Ukraine, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/37 of 10 December 1996, 54/44 of 1 December 1999, 57/50 of 22 November 2002, 60/46 of 8 December 2005, 63/36 of 2 December 2008, 66/21 of 2 December 2011 and 69/27 of 2 December 2014 relating to the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Recalling further paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[1]

Determined to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948,[2]

Noting with appreciation the discussions which have been held in the Conference on Disarmament under the item entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons",[3]

Noting the desirability of keeping the matter under review, as appropriate,

1. *Reaffirms* that effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

2. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament, without prejudice to further overview of its agenda, to keep the matter under review, as appropriate, with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on identified types of such weapons;

3. *Calls upon* all States, immediately following any recommendations of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to those recommendations;

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[1] Resolution S-10/2.

[2] The definition was adopted by the Commission for Conventional Armaments (see S/C.3/32/Rev.1 and S/C.3/32/Rev.1/Corr.1).

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/64/27), chap. III, sect. E; ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/65/27), chap. III, sect. E; ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/66/27), chap. III, sect. E; ibid., *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/67/27), chap. III, sect. E; ibid., *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/68/27), chap. III, sect. E; ibid., *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/69/27), chap. III, sect. E; ibid., *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/70/27), chap. III, sect. E; ibid., *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/71/27), chap. III, sect. E; and ibid., *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/72/27), chap. III, sect. E.

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

5. *Requests* the Conference on Disarmament to report the results of any consideration of the matter in its annual reports to the General Assembly;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".